

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of a computer network in establishing
2 communication between a first network device and a second
3 network device, the network including a policy device
4 that controls policy data relating to the communication,
5 the method comprising:
6 storing policy data in a storage device accessible by a
7 third network device, the policy data being:
8 (i) provided by the policy device in response
9 to a communication request message from the
10 first network device to the second network
11 device, and
12 (ii) specifically related to communication
13 between the first network device and the
14 second network device;
15 receiving with the third network device a confirmation
16 message sent by the second network device in
17 response to the communication request message, the
18 confirmation message indicating that the second
19 network device is prepared to have communications
20 with the first network device; and
21 forwarding from the third network device to the first
22 network device the stored policy data with the
23 confirmation message.
- 1 2. The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the network
2 devices are executing the RSVP protocol.

- 1 3. The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the network
2 devices are executing the IGMP protocol.
- 1 4. The method as defined by claim 1, further comprising:
2 marking data traffic directed from the first network
3 device to the second network device according to
4 the stored policy.
- 1 5. The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the policy
2 device uses Common Open Policy Service (COPS) protocol.
- 1 6. The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the stored
2 policy data includes a Differentiated Services Code Point
3 (DSCP) marking.
- 1 7. The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the stored
2 policy data includes an 802.1p signaling marking.
- 1 8. An apparatus in a computer network for establishing
2 communication between a first network device and a second
3 network device, the network including a policy device
4 that controls policy data relating to the communication,
5 the apparatus comprising:
6 a storage module for storing policy data in a storage
7 device accessible by a third network device, the
8 policy data being:
9 (i) provided by the policy device in response
10 to a communication request message from the
11 first network device to the second network
12 device, and
13 (ii) specifically related to communication

14 between the first network device and the
15 second network device; and
16 a message interface module in the third network device
17 that:
18 (i) receives a confirmation message sent by the
19 second network device in response to the
20 communication request message, the
21 confirmation message indicating that the
22 second network device is prepared to have
23 communications with the first network device,
24 and
25 (ii) forwards to the first network device the
26 stored policy data with the confirmation
27 message.

1 9. The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the network
2 devices are executing the RSVP protocol.

1 10. The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the network
2 devices are executing the IGMP protocol.

1 11. The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the policy
2 device uses Common Open Policy Service (COPS) protocol.

1 12. The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the stored
2 policy data includes a Differentiated Services Code Point
3 (DSCP) marking.

1 13. The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the stored
2 policy data includes an 802.1p signaling marking.

1 14. A computer program product for use on a computer system

2 in establishing communication in a computer network
3 between a first network device and a second network
4 device, the network including a policy device that
5 controls policy data relating to the communication, the
6 computer program product comprising a computer usable
7 medium having computer readable program code thereon, the
8 computer readable program code comprising:

9 program code for storing policy data in a storage
10 device accessible by a third network device, the
11 policy data being:

- 12 (i) provided by the policy device in response
13 to a communication request message from the
14 first network device to the second network
15 device, and
16 (ii) specifically related to communication
17 between the first network device and the
18 second network device;

19 program code for receiving with the third network
20 device a confirmation message sent by the second
21 network device in response to the communication
22 request message, the confirmation message
23 indicating that the second network device is
24 prepared to have communications with the first
25 network device; and

26 program code for forwarding from the third network
27 device to the first network device the stored
28 policy data with the confirmation message.

1 **15.** The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 wherein the network devices are executing the RSVP
3 protocol.

1 16. The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 wherein the network devices are executing the IGMP
3 protocol.

1 17. The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 further comprising:
3 program code for marking data traffic directed from the
4 first network device to the second network device
5 according to the stored policy.

1 18. The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 wherein the policy device uses Common Open Policy Service
3 (COPS) protocol.

1 19. The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 wherein the stored policy data includes a Differentiated
3 Services Code Point (DSCP) marking.

1 20. The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 wherein the stored policy data includes an 802.1p
3 signaling marking.